

LOC Questions and Clarifications Memorandum

To: Solicited Vendors for Letter of Configuration (LOC) Number 44647 dated December 20, 2018, for Public Employee' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS)

From: Craig P. Orgeron, Ph.D.

Date: January 15, 2019

Subject: Response to Questions Submitted and Clarifications to Specifications

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LOC Number 44647 is hereby amended as follows.

1. Item 5.2 is being modified to read:

If the Vendor proposes a firewall other than the preferred model (Palo Alto Networks PA-5220), Vendor must substantiate that the performance of the proposed firewall is equal to or greater than that of the referenced model (Palo Alto Networks PA-5220) and will interface seamlessly with Palo Alto Networks Panorama management application and Splunk Enterprise.

2. Item 5.12.1 is being modified to read:

The proposed firewalls shall support file identification by signature and ~~not~~ file extensions.

3. Item 5.14 is being modified to read:

SSL/SSH Decryption - The Vendor must state for Items 5.14.1 through 5.14.24, how the proposed firewalls meet or exceed the requirement.

4. Item 5.14.3 is being added to read:

The proposed firewalls should have the ability to decrypt up to 400,000 concurrent sessions.

5. Item 5.14.4 is being added to read:

The proposed firewalls should allow for granular policy control by groups to ensure adequate QoS.

The following questions were submitted to ITS and are being presented as they were submitted, except to remove any reference to a specific vendor. This information should assist you in formulating your response.

Question 1: I see they are asking for Palo Alto. Is there a possibility to promote an equivalent Fortinet solution?

Response: Yes, PERS preferred firewall is Palo Alto. However, Vendors are able to provide a functionally equivalent model but must be able to substantiate its performance as compared to a Palo Alto. Vendors should refer to Item 5.1, as well as various requirements throughout the LOC.

Question 2: I notice that the device needs to be able to handle SSL decryption, but don't see the SSL decryption throughput requirements listed in section 5 - Please state what the throughput requirements are with SSL/TLS Inspection enabled.

Response: Refer to Items 5.2 and 5.14 of the LOC. The proposed firewall must match the overall PA-5220 performance specifications. See Clarifications #4 and #5 above.

Question 3: In Article 5.2, interface seamlessly with what?

Response: Vendors proposed equipment must integrate seamlessly with Palo Alto Networks Panorama management application and Splunk Enterprise. See Clarification #1 above.

Question 4: If our throughput is validated by NSS labs - Do you still require the use of an ASIC?

Response: Yes.

Question 5: Does Article 5.10.1 refer to our database or having the capability to store your own URL database?

Response: The proposed firewall must provide a continuously updated URL filtering database based on curated categorization, must cache URL data locally, and must allow a customer to add/remove new URL categories and entries. Response to URL filtering must meet or exceed PAN URL Filtering specifications.

Question 6: In Article 5.12.1, by signature and not file extension? What about both?

Response: The proposed firewalls shall support file identification by signature and file extensions. See Clarification #2 above.

Question 7: Will we have access to questions submitted by other vendors?

Response: All vendor questions received before the deadline specified in the LOC have been compiled and answered in this Memorandum.

LOC responses are due Thursday, January 24, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. (Central Time). If you have any questions concerning the information above or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Jill Chastant at 601-432-8214 or via email at jill.chastant@its.ms.gov.

cc: ITS Project File Number 44647